

(Washington, DC) - Congressman Wally Herger today voted against [H.R. 4156](#), a measure that does not provide the funding the military has indicated it needs to carry out the missions in Iraq and Afghanistan through fiscal year 2008. Herger issued the following statement regarding his opposition to the measure:

"As our men and women in uniform are continuing to enforce General Petraeus' counter-insurgency plan in Iraq, I find it disappointing that the majority party would push a measure that irresponsibly places troop funding in doubt and establishes an arbitrary goal for troop withdrawal," Herger stated. "I believe Congress should listen closely to the recommendations of U.S. commanders in Iraq and avoid tying their hands. In addition, I believe that conditioning troop funding on redefining the mission in Iraq sends the wrong signal to our troops on the ground.

"This Iraq legislation does not consider the turnaround in Iraq that our commanders on the ground have reported in recent weeks and months," continued Herger. "Further, it does not embrace the comprehensive security plan that is crippling al-Qaeda in Iraq and reducing sectarian violence in Baghdad and other volatile areas. I find this action in Congress especially disappointing since it is occurring just days after the American people commemorated the U.S. veterans who have protected our national security and defended our freedoms in the past and present."

Herger concluded, "Significant challenges remain in Iraq, particularly in providing Iraqis of diverse backgrounds with meaningful influence in the new government. But Congress should not hesitate applauding the real progress in Iraq we've seen this year. It is because of the success of the Petraeus Plan that just this week a few thousand U.S. troops will start heading home--at the recommendation of our commanders in Iraq, not the mandate of armchair generals in Congress. I urge leaders on the other side of the aisle to bring before the House a measure that fully funds our troops and allows the successful security plan they are implementing to go forward without interruption."